

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

April 23, 1997 LB 608

clarify...from the hearing, we had a large number of testifiers in support of the bill. There were a few concerns raised at the hearing. The committee amendments deal with those, and we have reached a consensus. The bill itself was drafted by a task force out of the Department of Health over the course of the last year. Anyway, the provisions that came out of the hearing, one of them dealt with waivers. Now currently, you have to come back every year to get a waiver, and at the hearing we heard about a waiver for a door that was too small, and every year they had to come back to get the waiver on that door. Well, the door doesn't change. Once you get the waiver, if it's okay, it ought to just continue so the committee amendments will allow for waivers to be ongoing if the situation makes sense to do that. We also clarify in the bill a concern that came up about bypassing this area of oversight in the situations where there may be an apartment building where they don't call themselves assisted living facility but provide assisted living. So this will clarify that we're not going to affect apartments or other types of living arrangements if they don't provide assistance to the individuals. But if they should, through contracted personally or collectively, for over 25 percent of the residents, then they would come under the provisions of the bill. We also deal with...Alzheimer's group showed up and they were concerned about special needs for Alzheimer's. So we make it clear that in the rules and regs that they will have to provide for some recognition of their special needs. We also dealt with emergency drug boxes. This is a bill from Senator Lynch. Currently, emergency drug boxes are allowed in nursing homes so that if something happens in the middle of the night, they can't get somebody quickly to get help, they have an emergency basis and an accountable basis, drugs to help an individual. This would be allowed in mental health centers, as they are now for nursing homes. And finally, we clarify that physical and chemical restraints would not be allowed in an assisted living facility. These committee amendments help deal with the concerns raised at the hearing, and I'd ask for their adoption.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Mr. Clerk, we have an amendment.

CLERK: Madam President. Senator Brown, I had an amendment. I